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Golden Gate Audubon Society

# THE GULL



## THE ANNUAL MEETING Father's Day at Lyford House

Celebrate Father's Day, taste vintage wines, gourmet cheeses, homemade goodies, and contribute to Audubon Canyon Ranch, all for a tax-deductible \$15. Bring Dad to our chapter's annual meeting and wine-tasting benefit, held on Sunday, June 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Audubon Western Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon. As in past years we all look forward to what has become *the* social event at GGAS. Lyford House offers an idyllic setting in which to sip your chardonnay, savor your chevre, and relish your brownie, all to be enjoyed to the strains of a classical guitar. In addition, GGAS will present its annual conservation awards. The out-of-chapter award will honor Fish and Game, who has been fighting to protect our rapidly dwindling wetlands in the Bay Area. Our in-chapter award remains a surprise, going to one who has distinguished himself by his dedication and inspiration.

Be sure to make a reservation for this event, either by sending in the form in *The Gull* or by calling Barbara at 843-2222.

— TOM WHITE

## FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

**Friday-Sunday, May 30-June 2 — Birding by Ear in Yosemite.** See May *Gull* for details.

**Saturday/Sunday, June 7/8 — Mono Basin.** See May *Gull* for details.

**Wednesday, June 11 — Mini-trip to Sunol Regional Park.** Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the ranger station parking lot in the park. Take Hwy. 580 east, watch for the turnoff to Hwy. 680 near Dublin. Take Hwy. 680 south, turn off at Calaveras Rd., go left, follow the signs to Sunol Park. We may see Lark Sparrows, Golden Eagles, Northern Orioles and resident birds of the area. Bring lunch. Leaders: Delpha deTimofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

**Saturday/Sunday, June 21/22 — Yuba Pass and Vicinity.** On **Saturday** meet at 9 a.m. at Wild Plum Campground. We will caravan to Sierra Valley and see many of the birds of the eastern Sierra including Yellow-headed Blackbird. On **Sunday** meet at 8 a.m. at the Yuba pass summit. We will bird the mountain areas for summer residents including

flycatchers, warblers and Calliope Hummingbirds.

Take I-80 to Truckee, go north on Hwy. 89 to Sierraville and take Hwy. 49 west to Wild Plum Campground, about one-half mile from Sierra City. Or take Hwy. 49 northeast from Auburn. Camping is available at the Wild Plum and Chapman campgrounds on Hwy. 49 (U.S. Forest Service). Lodging is available at Sierra City: Sierra Chalet (916-862-1110), Buttes Motel (916-862-1170), Herrington's Sierra Pines (916-862-1151), Basset Station Motel (916-862-1297), Sierra Buttes Inn Motel (916-862-1191), and Yuba River Inn (916-862-1122). Leader: Peter Allen (892-8063). (✓)

**Sunday, June 22 — Farallon Islands Boat Trip.** See *May Gull* for details.

**Friday-Sunday, June 27-29 — Lassen Volcanic National Park.** This is the annual GGAS family camping excursion. Join the Murphy family for a weekend of birding and hiking at Lassen. The more serious birders will meet on **Friday and Saturday** mornings by the store at the Manzanita Lake Campground at **6:15 a.m.** We will spend two to three hours birding the lake and nearby area. After a quick breakfast we will meet again at 10:30 a.m. at the store for a hike through some of Lassen's beautiful back country on Friday, and will bird along the park road on Sunday. The Friday hike will be about three miles in length and leisurely paced for the convenience of small children and the leaders. Bring a bottle of your favorite wine to our campsite on Friday evening after 8 p.m. for our fourth annual wine tasting. Be sure to bring your own glass and chair,

we will provide the corkscrew and campfire.

On **Saturday**, we will meet at **7:30 a.m.** and caravan north to Burney Falls, Fall River Valley and Baum Lake. This will be an all-day excursion of about 100 miles. We are planning to have lunch at Lake Britton so bring swim wear and a towel. We will spend two to three hours there, so if you don't plan to swim bring a book. We will end the day at Uncle Runt's Restaurant (gourmet?! center for the Lassen region).

In the past years we have seen Willow, Hammond's and Dusky Flycatcher, Black Swift, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird and most of the warblers which breed in the mountains.

Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to pack a lunch and liquids. Suntan lotion, a hat, mosquito repellent and warm clothing for cold nights may also be needed. Plan to stop at our camp any evening for a campfire. You will need a cup and a folding chair so we can huddle together and try to stay warm.

From the Bay Area drive north on I-5 to its junction with Hwy. 44 in Redding. Go east on Hwy. 44 to the northeast entrance of Lassen. Camping facilities are available at Manzanita Lake. Lodging is available about 15 miles north of the park at Doan's Hat Creek Resort, Old Station (916-335-2359). Other information can be obtained from the park headquarters, Mineral CA, 96063. Be sure to check at Doan's or the park bulletin board for our campsite number and further details or changes in the schedule. Leaders: Dan and Joan Murphy (564-0074). \$ (✓)

**Sunday, July 13 — Chimney Rock, Pt. Reyes.** Join us for our annual trip



to see nesting Black Oystercatchers and Western Gulls. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the Pt. Reyes National Seashore Headquarters near Olema. We will caravan to the coast. Bring lunch, liquids and a spotting scope if you have one. Leader: Betty Short (921-3020 weekdays). (✓)

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-7022 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Trips marked with \$ go to areas that require an entrance fee.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

— FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

## STATE PARK SYSTEM

The State Park System has been growing in acreage and visitor attendance while the number of staff members to care for these facilities has remained almost constant since 1977. The System is suffering from this lack of staff and the precious habitat and valuable historical resources are endangered. Basic park protection is not carried out to preserve habitat, enhance wildlife, correct erosion and prevent poaching of native species. General plans have not been adopted, adequate security is not provided, and while most crime (82%) occurs between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., many parks are unable to have any night patrol on duty to protect visitors.

Please write Gov. Deukmejian today and ask him to include the necessary funds in the 1986-87 budget for State Parks. Address him at the State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

## APRIL OBSERVATIONS Through April 30

Gadfly Petrels, cruising well offshore, were seen from research vessels this month (see below). However, spring winds confounded skippers and pelagic birders who attempted to see the rare visitors to California waters. While some winter lingerers molted into breeding plumage migrants and summer residents returned, bringing new vigor to local birders.

### News from SE Farallon Island

Cassin's Auklets were late in laying their eggs, with the first appearing on April 5, compared with last year's peak of the entire breeding population on March 28. Because Cassin's Auklet is the first species to lay eggs on the Islands Farallon biologists use this date as a clue to the rest of the breeding season. This information, combined with ocean temperatures and evidence of amounts of food sources, leads them to believe it may be a poor breeding season this year. The Common Murre population is expected to decline again, partially due to low recruitment of breeding-aged birds, even if gill netting is reduced and oil is not spilled. The expected population is around 40,000, down from 88,000 in 1982 (PRBO).

### Tubenoses

Laysan Albatrosses continued to be seen with one off Half Moon Bay April 11 and one west of Cypress Point, Monterey County April 19 (*fide* SJ). Observers from a research vessel sailing south down the California Coast saw, in Humboldt County on April 10, one **Mottled Petrel**, one **Murphy's Petrel** (first California record of this South Pacific Gadfly Petrel), two **Cook's Petrels**, and two Cook's-type petrels. On April 11 four **Murphy's Petrels** were seen northwest of Point Conception (Santa Barbara County) (All

LS, TW, *fide* REW). Closer to home, **twenty Solander's Petrels** (a species not yet added to the California list) and three **Murphy's Petrels** were 15 miles southwest of Cordell Banks on April 21 (DA). A Flesh-footed Shearwater followed the "Miss Monterey" for over two hours on a Monterey pelagic trip April 13 (JML, SJ).

### **Ducks through Alcids**

Harlequin Ducks lingered throughout the month, the male at Bolinas Lagoon through April 27 (JM, mob), and another at Rodeo Lagoon through April 28 (GH, JM). The Bodega Bay Oldsquaw was present at least to April 27 (GMF, mob), and single birds were at Elkhorn Slough April 12 (DSu), and near Sharp Park Golf Course April 20 (AS).

Lesser Golden-Plovers were still at four locations: five at Spaletta Ranch to April 19—three in breeding plumage (LP, JW, mob), one at Lodi Sewage Ponds April 11 (DY), one at Pigeon Point April 10 (DSu), and two at Lawson's Landing April 15 (RH). An American Black Oystercatcher on Bay Farm Island April 17 (DSc) was joined by another April 19 (LF, et al.). A Solitary Sandpiper at Great America April 30 is a rare spring migrant, and is more often found at inland locations, but Great America? (BB). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Lawson's Landing, Marin County April 15-17 (RH) adds to our very few spring records for this species. The Princeton Harbor Rock Sandpiper was last seen March 31, in breeding plumage (MD); another remained at Pebble Beach to March 26, and one at Pigeon Point was last seen April 9 (DSu).

**Four** adult Little Gulls were at the Stockton Sewage Ponds April 14 (DY). At Pigeon Point 350 Sabine's Gulls were counted in less than two hours

April 4, an early date for spring migration (DSu). Six Least Terns arrived at Alameda Naval Air Station April 30 (LC, *fide* LF). Two Xantus' Murrelets were seen 9 miles off Point Pinos March 29 (SFB, SJ).

### **Landbirds**

Ten Calliope Hummingbirds April 11 (DY), and fifteen April 24 (MLR) at Carnegie Motorcycle Park, San Joaquin County were high numbers. A Hammond's Flycatcher was found at Rock City, Mt. Diablo on April 20 (JM). The Cassin's Kingbird on Panoche Pass Road continued to be seen through April 22 (PLaT), and another was reported from Del Puerto Canyon April 19 (FT). A Yellow-billed Magpie on San Antonio Road in Los Altos, Santa Clara County April 18 was surprising (AH). A pair of Pygmy Nuthatches was nest building in the Oakland Hills near Skyline and Ascot Roads in Redwood Regional Park, Contra Costa County April 10-26, in an area where breeding has been suspected since at least 1981 (HAG, mob). A Sage Thrasher appeared at the Yolo Bypass Levee April 17 (JH), while another was seen on Carson Ridge in Marin County April 18 (DH, DK, JK), both somewhat off course for migrating or wintering birds.

A Palm Warbler was at Lake Merced in San Francisco April 5 (DM, WK), and another at Golden Gate Park April 10 (DE). An American Redstart continued to be seen at North Lake, Golden Gate Park to April 6 (AH). A male Black-chinned Sparrow was found singing off of Big Springs Road in Tilden Park April 20, 27 (AG, WG). A singing male Black-throated Sparrow was along Cloverdale Road, San Mateo County April 25 (DSu). Four Lapland Longspurs, three in breeding plumage, were still at Hayward Regional Shoreline Park April 23, 2 remaining



to April 30 (BR). A Yellow-headed Blackbird on Bay Farm Island April 19 (LF, et al.) was still there April 26 (PDG). Several Red Crossbills in San Francisco were found at the Presidio and also in Lincoln Park April 21 (AH), and in Golden Gate Park April 26 (AS). Four Lawrence's Goldfinches were near the ridge above Big Springs Road April 20 (AG, WG).

### Observers

David Ainley, Stephen F. Bailey, Bruce Barrett, Kurt F. Campbell, Laura Collins, Mike Danzenbaker, David Edwards, Leora Feeney, Gary M. Fellers, Al Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Helen A. Green, Paul D. Green, Rob Hayden, Nancy Hillyard, David Holway, Alan Hopkins, George Hugenberg, Joan Humphrey, Durrell Kapan, Jan Kapan, Marilyn Kinch, Woody Kuehn, Jeri M. Langham, Peter LaTourette, George Ledec, many observers (mob), Joseph Morlan, Dan Murphy, Virginia Norris, Pacific Adventures, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (thanks to Harriet Huber, Harry Carter and Stephanie Kaza), Lina Prairie, David Rice, Bob Richmond, Mary Louise Rosegay, David Schurr, Debra Love Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, Anne Smith, Larry Spear, Jean Marie Spoelman, Emilie Strauss, David Suddjian, Frances Toldi, Terry Wahl, Peter Watkins, Richard E. Webster, Janet Wessel, Anna Wilcox, David Yee.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 843-2211.

—HELEN A. GREEN

Observations Editor  
2001 Yolo Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94707

## CONSERVATION NOTES THE EASTSHORE STATE PARK

The quiet at the waterfront will soon be broken by the pervasive roar of bulldozers and the endless pounding of pile drivers if the newly merged Santa Fe Southern Pacific Realty Corporation has its way. The cities of Albany, Berkeley and Emeryville are each considering intensive shoreline development plans which have been proposed by this determined real estate giant. While Berkeley is moving toward a more modest development scheme than that proposed by Santa Fe Southern Pacific, the other two cities appear more favorably disposed toward extensive development of their irreplaceable waterfront open space.

Emeryville is considering the construction of an 18 story hotel complex with its promenade which will project over 400 feet south from Powell Street into the Emeryville Crescent. Even prior to approval of zoning by the City Council, Santa Fe Southern Pacific has instructed its agents to seek approval from the Army Corps of Engineers for its enormous bay fill and land removal scheme in the Emeryville Crescent. Another four million square feet of development has been proposed for the waterfront land in Albany which surrounds Golden Gate Fields, a good portion of which will be phased in while the race track continues to operate.

The cumulative impact of these separate development proposals on traffic and air quality, the irrevocable destruction of open space and views and the further "Los-Angelization" of this area has not received any joint consideration by these three cities. In fact, there has been no cooperation, to date, in the planning process.

The alternative to Santa Fe Southern

Pacific's current corporate policy of intensive development is the creation of a continuous shoreline park, encompassing most of the remaining open space from the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza north to the Albany mudflats. To this end, Citizens for an Eastshore State Park have been working to defeat Santa Fe Southern Pacific's intensive development proposals and to raise public awareness of the possibilities for a major eastshore park. Several groups, including Golden Gate Audubon Society, have endorsed this effort and now we are asking for your individual support as well. The decision making process in each of the cities is moving inexorably forward and time is running out.

You can help by contributing money and/or volunteering to help publicize the park concept. If you are a resident of one of the three cities, we urge you to oppose Santa Fe Southern Pacific's development plans. You can call GGAS' office at 843-2222 for an update on the situation in your city and for more information about how you can help. **PLEASE CALL TODAY!**

—NIKKI SPILANE

### **OAKLAND AIRPORT**

If you have been following our Conservation articles during the last few years you will be familiar with the desperate situation facing our seasonal wetlands. These seasonal wetlands, usually behind dikes, are dry in the summer and lush wetlands in the winter. They provide critical habitat for many species of shorebirds and ducks. Smaller shorebirds are especially dependent upon them, for when the tide is high these birds, which need to feed up to 22 hours a day, have nowhere else to feed. The loss of these wetlands

means the loss of these smaller birds.

In Oakland we have one of the largest seasonal wetlands existing in the bay area. This is a 435 acre group of seasonal ponds that supports an incredibly large number of birds: in one day's sighting the EPA recorded 800 sandpipers, 2200 American Widgeon, 250 Black-bellied Plovers, 270 American Avocets, 400 Dowitchers, etc.

This will all be destroyed if the Army Corps of Engineers has its way. The Airport wants to fill this area and construct hangars on 120 acres and use the rest for, as yet, unidentified uses. The Corps has issued a notice that they intend to let this destructive project proceed without requiring an Environmental Impact Statement, something required by federal law. The Corps is also allowing the Airport to proceed without adequate mitigation. The Airport will enhance between 99 and 170 acres of wetlands on the Napa River. This is clearly inadequate in acreage and will do our Alameda shorebirds no good whatsoever.

The EPA is protesting the Corps' decision, and even has the power to overrule the Corps. If you feel strongly about this issue you may write the EPA and ask that they use their Section 404C powers (from the Clean Water Act) and overrule the Corps' decision (mention Army Corps Public Notice No. 14003E48B). Write to Mr. R.A. Edwards, Deputy Asst. Adm. for External Affairs, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20460. You may also write Judith Ayres, our Regional Administrator, US EPA, 215 Fremont Street, S.F., CA 94105.



## THE BACK YARD BIRDER

Parental care varies greatly throughout the animal kingdom. Among birds, tending the offspring begins while incubating the eggs and doesn't end until independence is achieved (i.e. the ability to fly and to find food for themselves).

The division of labor between female and male can be "equal rights", single parent (all-female or all-male) or even shared among several families in communities. The hummingbird, e.g., is a true chauvinist, leaving the female to build a nest and rear her young after mating while he moves on to the next available female. Among Snow Buntings each parent takes responsibility for part of the brood. In species where there are two broods a year, the male is often left to finish raising the family while the female lays the groundwork for the second brood. Some colonial water birds (e.g. the Common Eider) form a nursery or creche, sharing in the care of the young.

Despite appearance of motherly or parental "love," evolution has proven that survival of the species depends on the successful rearing and caring of the young. To begin with, broken eggshells pose a hazard to the newly-born's delicate skin, clutter the nest, and may even advertise the nest's presence. Among ducks, geese and gallinaceous birds such as quail, the chicks are precocial, that is, covered with down and able to follow behind their parents, feeding themselves within hours, leaving the eggshells behind. The altricial species, such as most songbirds, whose young are helpless, naked and blind at birth, either eat the eggshells or pick them up in their bills and drop them away from the nest. Some birds are such obsessive housekeepers they will dispose of their own babies in order to get rid of the unsightly band which

scientists have attached to the nestling's leg!

In the beginning, nestlings cannot maintain their own body temperature so the parent birds keep the young next to the brood patch, an area of the belly without feathers which develops during the breeding season. Oddly enough, young birds can more easily withstand lower temperatures and run a greater risk from overheating in the sun. As the babies develop and learn to react to danger, the parents spend more time finding and delivering food to meet the growing appetites of the demanding youngsters. Their diet may be the same as the adults, but some fruit and seed-eaters give their nestlings a quick-start with a protein-rich menu of insects.

There is a wide variety of ways in which adult birds transfer their "fast food" deliveries. Birds of prey present an entire carcass to the nest and tear off tidbits until the babies learn to butcher their own food. Most passerines, or perching birds, carry food in their bills and stuff it into the gaping mouths of the starving babes. Other birds swallow and partially digest the meal, regurgitating the soft baby food either into an awaiting beak or into the nest. Hummingbirds thrust their bills down the babies' throats and "pump" in regurgitated food, a frightening-looking process to witness. Generally the most demanding youngster is fed first. Thus, the strongest is sure to survive and in times when food is scarce, the weaker are sacrificed. Baby birds can eat an astonishing amount of food, so most of the parents' day is spent foraging.

Techniques of defense against predators ranges from passiveness, simply covering the nest and remaining silent and motionless, to the savage aggression of falcons and hawks. Some parents give alarm calls while they shepherd the chicks to cover. Others dis-

tract intruders with dramatic displays of feigned injury or they dive-bomb, scream or hiss to frighten the potential predator.

Gradually, young birds learn to fend for themselves, the basic abilities to fly, feed and sing being innate rather than taught.

Somehow, I don't believe birds experience the empty-nest syndrome which some humans seem to feel. Like *all* parents, they have earned the luxury of feeding and caring for themselves. —MEG PAULETICH

## FARALLON ISLANDS

If you missed GGAS's Farallon Island cruise, the Whale Center is sponsoring cruises to the Farallon Islands, 23 miles west of San Francisco, and for the first time will offer air flights over the Gulf of the Farallones as well as boat cruises to the Pioneer and Guide Seamounts forty miles offshore.

Farallon cruises depart at 8 a.m. from Sausalito aboard our large, comfortable Coast Guard certified vessel, and return about 4 p.m. on the following Sundays: June 15 and 29, July 13 and 27, August 10 and 24, September 14 and 28, October 12 and 26. Air flights are aboard a FAA certified twin engine Cessna departing from Oakland airport. The flights are two hours in duration; please call for arrangements. All trips are accompanied by trained Whale Center naturalists for the passengers' enjoyment and safety.

Boat cruises are \$44 per person (children under 10 are not permitted). Group rates are available for 10 or more at \$39 per person.

Air flights are \$130 per person; \$120 for Whale Center members.

The Pioneer and Guide seamounts are

south of the Farallones forty miles offshore of the San Mateo coast. They offer the possibility of rarely sighted whales such as sperm whales and rarely seen deep ocean birds.

Cruises are \$89 and depart Sausalito September 7 and October 4 at 5 a.m., returning at approximately 7 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the Whale Center, a conservation and education organization working for the whales and their ocean habitat. Center members receive a discount. For information phone the Whale Center at (415) 654-6621.

## SUMMER BIRD CLASSES

IN SAN FRANCISCO will be offered free on Wednesday and Thursday evenings starting June 4-5, 1986 in Room 260, Arts Bldg., City College of San Francisco, 7 to 9:30 p.m. For details see *The Gull* for May, or call the college at 561-1900.

IN ALBANY will be offered at the Albany Adult School, Tuesday evenings, 7 to 9:30 p.m. in Room 7 at the McGregor School, 601 San Gabriel Ave., starting June 17. This will be an introduction to ornithology. Topics include population ecology, behavioral adaptations, evolution and systematics. An overview of the birds of the world and families of North American birds are illustrated through a series of slide-lectures. This class also stresses field identification and habits of common Bay Area birds. The fee is \$20 for the six-week course. Register through the school or at the first class meeting. For more information call the school at 526-6811 or 525-7131 evenings. Please bring a field guide and binoculars to class if you have them. Optional field trips may be offered. The instructor is Joseph Morlan.



## FREMONT BIRDING FIELD TRIPS CLASS

Beginning on June 24 and through July 29, the Fremont Adult School and instructor Alice Hoch will offer a six session series of classes about field identification, life styles, and ecology of local birds. Each class will visit a different birding spot. The class will meet Tuesday mornings from 8:20 to 11:30 with registration at 8:30 a.m. on June 24 in Room 2 of the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont. Bring binoculars and be prepared to bird that morning. For information phone the school at 791-5841.

## POINT LOBOS TRIP

Saturday, June 21 the Fremont Adult School will offer a field class "Birds and Flowers of Pt. Lobos" led by Alice Hoch. Meet at the flag pole in front of the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave. at 8:30 a.m. All students must pre-register for this trip by Tuesday, June 13, in person or by letter, including the \$13 fee, addressed to the school at 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont 94538. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Bring lunch, liquids, snacks and binoculars. Wear sturdy shoes. Students are responsible for transportation, but car pools can be arranged.



## PRBO OFFERINGS

Spring and early summer samplings of the offerings of Point Reyes Bird Observatory include the following:

**GREAT BASIN IN THE SPRING** June 6-11, lake hopping through the Great Basin with Dave Shuford in the eastern Sierra and the Warner Mountains. \$175 fee for the public (\$160 for members of PRBO).

**SEQUOIA-KINGS CANYON** June 20-22, Dave Shuford guides hiking and birding in the southern Sierra Nevada. \$100 for the public (\$90 for members of PRBO).

**HOW BIRDS WORK** July 19-20, Michael Ellis explores bird evolution, physiology and anatomy in an overnight workshop at the American Youth Hostel in Point Reyes National Seashore. Public \$70 (members of PRBO \$60).

For information and reservations call or write Kathleen Dickey, PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970, or 868-1221.

## OWL PELLETS NEEDED

The Biology Dept. at the Lawrence Hall of Science needs owl pellets (Barn, Great Horned, etc.) for various classes we offer. If you know of locations in the East Bay or San Francisco where owls roost or nest, please telephone Chris Swarth at 642-9635 or 642-0834.

## BIRD LIST

GGAS would like to make you an offer you can't refuse. Free copies of an index to Birds of Northern California are available in the GGAS office, or Joe Morlan's bird identification classes in San Francisco. We do not plan to mail these so please pay us a visit if you want one.

## BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

### A Site Guide

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society's Jean Richmond is the author of a new publication offered by that chapter and available for sale at the GGAS office. It is a detailed, clearly mapped guide to 72 birding sites both near the Bay and as far afield as Los Banos, Bodega Bay and Monterey. This 144 page bound publication is an updated and edited compilation of the many Greater Bay Area site guides that have appeared over the years in *The Quail*, MDAS' monthly bulletin. The price is \$10 plus tax.

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Raptor Migration Observatory of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the SF Zoological Society and the Golden Gate National Park Assn., is a group of birds banders, watchers and biologists dedicated to studying and enjoying the large migration of birds of prey through the Marin Headlands. This July we will launch a volunteer based Hawk Watch Program to record numbers and species of raptors as they cross the Golden Gate. It will run the length of the fall migration, August 18th through December 14th.

Volunteers will need to commit several weeknights of training in late July and to hawkwatching on one scheduled day every two weeks during the migration season. Some prior bird identification experience is essential.

If you want to contribute your birding skills to a long-term ecological research program with conservation implications, please attend the orientation meeting June 26th at 7 p.m. in the conference room at the National Park Service Headquarters, Bldg. 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco. For directions phone Allen Fish at 331-0730.

### CALL FOR DOCENTS

Did you ever wish you knew more about animals and the environment than you do now? Would you be available to go places in the out of doors many people never get to go? Would you enjoy the thrill of introducing children to local wild animals? Would you enjoy the companionship of people with interests similar to yours? If you have Monday mornings free, beginning in September, join the **Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum** and become a docent. Docents do all of those things and more. You visit schools with live, wild animals, take children and adults on tours of the museum, and furthermore, you get a discount in our bookstore and on trips sponsored by the museum. The opportunities are as boundless as the ocean. For further information, please call Pat McRae at 935-1978.

### COASTLINES

*The Gull* welcomes a new publication of the Planning and Conservation League and the League for Coastal Protection. Its first issue appeared in March. It will focus on issues affecting the California coast and San Francisco Bay. It will watch the actions of the governmental agencies that affect these two important resources. A "Local Currents" section will provide information on issues of local concern along the 1100 mile coastline.

Planned initially for six issues a year, *Coastlines* is hoped to be increased to a monthly publication. Subscriptions at \$20 a year are available from Esther Feldman, managing editor at PCL Foundation, 909 12th Street, Suite 203, Sacramento CA 95818.



## NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch

Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA

(415) 383-1644

Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature

Education under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate,

Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies

Flora MacLise, Chairman

Record attendance figures are being set this spring at ACR's Bolinas preserve. Manager Skip Schwartz reports 8,230 visitors **not including school groups** from March through April. Sunday, April 27 set an all time one day high of 786. As of May 1 totals were well over 2500 visitors ahead of the same period last year.

Most of this is due to a surge of publicity. *Sunset* magazine ran a piece in its April issue. The *San Francisco Chronicle* had both a feature in its Sunday Image section in May and a piece by Margot Patterson Doss in April. Channel 4's Sunday evening Program "Bay Area Back Roads" and Channel 5's "Evening Magazine" have both prepared segments on the ranch as well as ABC's "Good Morning America".

This influx of visitors makes the

spring weekend hosting by Audubon chapter members very important, Schwartz stressed. He also spoke of the tremendous appreciation by visitors for the preserve's beauty and the friendly spirit of the staff. "I just hope we're not loving it to death," he added.

The Volunteer Council or educational arm of the Bolinas Preserve will be hosting two interview days in Picher Canyon for prospective docents. On June 4 and August 27 those interested in becoming natural history educators and guides for the week day elementary school program are invited to visit the ranch to meet docents and ask questions about the program. Training classes will begin September 10.

This spring 75 docents worked with 1800 children from 49 Bay Area elementary schools. Experience at the heronry overlook and Pierson Pond as well as along the trails helped to instill in youngsters the value and necessity of understanding and caring for this one and only earth and its creatures.

Anyone interested in the training program should call ACR at 383-1644.

## GIFTS and BEQUESTS

### FOR GGAS

#### In Memory of

Dan Brodie

F. H. Cowden

#### In Honor of

Cecil & Marguerite Burke

#### Gift of

Dr. & Mrs. William R. Brody

Jane Schweitzer

#### Gift of

Beth Bean

### FOR AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

#### In Memory of

Mary Keohane

#### Gift of

Ruth C. Barnes

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THE GULL

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Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

**The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.**